

Millstone Township Agricultural Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2013

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

The Secretary read the adequate notice.

Roll Call

Present: (3) Butch, Dancer, Posten

Absent: (3) Asprocolas, Peck, Pinhas

Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Ms. Posten with a Second offered by Ms. Butch to approve the September 3, 2013, minutes.

AYES: (2) Posten, Butch

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Correspondence:

Old Business

- **Large Animal OEM:** There will be an OEM presentation at the October 2nd Township Committee meeting. Maggie Romano will present two segments: one for large animals and one for small animals.
- **Farm Leases:** Nothing new to report.
- **Horse Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales and Use Tax:** Nothing new to report.
- **Baird Homestead Project & Millstone Agriculture Museum:** The project is progressing; input from farmers is needed to decide what to do with the front section of the property where the old nursery stock is located. Mr. Peck will be taking care of getting the greenhouse in operating order. JCP&L is running underground electric service. Bids were advertised for the bump out of the Morton building and the installation of the ADA bathroom.

New Business

- **New Commercial Farm Certification Form:** Ms. Butch discussed the new Commercial Farm Certification form that has been developed to assist commercial farms in Millstone with right-to-farm protections. The municipal form is modeled after the County form and will be used to provide protections to certified commercial farms under both the municipal Right-to-Farm Ordinance and the state Right-to-Farm Act. Farming is permitted in all zones in the Township. Farmers who provide qualifying agriculture production receipts can submit the completed and notarized form to the Mayor for

certification. The Secretary will retain a file of original certification forms. The production income level for commercial farms of 5 acres or more is \$2,500.00 and \$50,000.00 for farms less than 5 acres. Commercial farm designation is different than farmland assessment. Income levels are different for the two classifications and properties that are farmland assessed are not protected by the Right-to-Farm Act if they cannot show proof of the income criteria required for commercial farm certification. Going forward, complaints against certified commercial farms will be reviewed at the municipal level rather than being sent directly to the County Agriculture Board.

- **Jersey Fresh Harvest Fest:** The Friends group tried to do a Jersey Fresh Harvest Fest for the Baird property this fall but availability of the Wagner Farm Park facility was unknown until the Pop Warner football schedule was set in September and there wasn't sufficient time to plan the event. The event has been postponed until next year.
- **Millstone Day:** Millstone Day took place on Sunday, September 22nd, at Frogbridge Day Camp. The weather was great and the event was well attended. The Ag Council held a "Guess My Weight" giant pumpkin contest, gave out free apples which were donated by Asprocolas Acres and displayed Jersey Fresh seasonal vegetables. The Ag Council's display was situated with the Historic Commission, the Friends group, the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council, the Trailblazers and the Shade Tree Commission. Joanne Kelty, the Township Historian, held a butter making demonstration.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 4th.

Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Posten with a Second offered by Mr. Dancer and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher
Council Secretary